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December 6, 1999

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Donna Shalala, Secretary  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala,

I understand that labeling requirements for irradiated food may be weakened by the Food and Drug Administration. This is to inform you that I strongly oppose weakening the law that allows consumers to know whether the food we eat has been treated with radiation.

Exposure to radioactive isotopes causes food to undergo chemical changes and I believe that it may not be safe to eat. These nutritional and cosmetic changes warrant disclosure in a prominent place on the label of these foods. In addition, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where the food is displayed for sale.

Anything else would be misleading. Our labeling laws have required labels to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. With irradiated foods, only clear and permanent labeling is acceptable.

I hope that you will defend my rights to know and the rights of all consumers in our country to know in this important decision-making process.

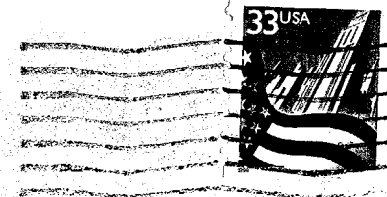
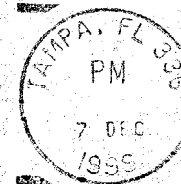
Sincerely,

  
Suzanne H. Suarez

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